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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that THOMAS WALKER, 34, a federal prisoner, was sentenced to 240 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his previously entered guilty pleas to the aggravated assault of 4 correctional officers at the United States Penitentiary, Terre Haute. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Federal Bureau of Prisons.

On the evening of July 14, 2004, inside the United States Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana, Correctional Officer (CO) Joseph Sims was sitting on a stool in the main corridor, monitoring a metal detector during the final inmate movement of the day. This inmate movement, scheduled from 7:50 pm to 8:00 pm, allows inmates on the recreation yard to return to their assigned units for the evening. Close to the metal detector were COs Gregory B. Brummett and Terry T. Ray, who were monitoring the inmate movement. In addition,

COs Brummett and Ray were randomly searching inmates who were in line for the metal detector. At approximately 7:53 pm, during his final inmate movement, inmate Thomas WALKER exited his assigned unit, came up behind CO Sims, and stabbed CO Sims two times in his back with a sharpened metal rod.

After stabbing CO Sims, WALKER attacked CO Brummett with a sharpened metal rod. CO Brummett suffered a stab wound to the back of his head and a gash on his forehead.

WALKER then attacked CO Ray, stabbing Ray twice with a sharpened metal rod. CO Ray suffered a stab wound to his left shoulder and a stab wound on the top of his head.

CO Lloyd L. McPherson, Jr. responded to the attack and saw WALKER holding two sharpened weapons, one in each hand. CO McPherson wrapped his arms around inmate WALKER, and with the assistance of responding officers, WALKER was taken to the ground. During the altercation, WALKER also stabbed CO McPherson in his back.

After WALKER was taken to the ground, CO McPherson pried two sharpened metal rods from the hand of WALKER. One sharpened metal rod was approximately 7 inches in length, and the second metal rod was approximately 9 inches in length.

The assault was recorded on surveillance cameras monitoring the corridor activity inside the United States Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana.

According to James M. Warden, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed 3 years supervised release following WALKER's release from imprisonment.

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